

APR 20 2009

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No.: 10/805,717
Office Action dated: 01/30/09
Response dated: April 20, 2009

PATENT
PD030035

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed January 30, 2009. To better point out and claim his invention, Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, and 12 and has cancelled claim 16. Following this amendment, claims 1-15 remain in this application. In view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks, Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejections.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejection of Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. More specifically, the Examiner has rejected the language "the relevant output" as used in the claim. Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct this language and to place the claim in a form more acceptable for US practice. As amended, claim 1 complies with 35 U.S.C. 112 and Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claims 1-15

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,768,519 to Fujita et al. In asserting this rejection, the Examiner states that the 15th embodiment of Fujita et al. shown in Figures 67-69 discloses all the claimed subject matter. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of the teachings of Fujita.

Amended claim 1 recites, inter alia, "(a) representing input signals on a display with input symbols" The examiner asserts that "an input symbol could comprise the information (symbols, graphics, images or characters, etc) in the input channels of Fujita as disclosed in Figs. 67-69 and Col 37, line 1 – Col 38, line 52 of that patent. Applicant respectfully asserts that Fujita fails to disclose or suggest the concept of representing "input signals" on a display with an input symbols as set forth by the claimed invention. In fact, Fujita very specifically states:

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"The path information generating means 281 generates information of the paths leading to each output channel from the settings of the intersections of the matrix switch and the information of units and input channels connected. The information image output means 282 receives path information from the path generating means 281, then generates images of characters, etc., and outputs the same to each output channel. Images of information of paths leading to each output channel are output to the same output channel."

At no point does Fujita suggest representing input signals on a display with input symbols.

Claim 1 further recites, "(b) assigning input signals with common properties to input symbols which have a common color property and/or graphical property." In rejecting this aspect of the Applicant's invention, the Examiner asserts that Figures 67-69, Col. 2, lines 30-43, and Col. 37, line 1 -- Col. 38, line 52 of Fujita teaches that an operator of the video processing apparatus controls a switch to assign input signals to specific video signal processing units or groups for control. Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner's rejection depends on impermissible hindsight reconstruction of Applicant's claimed invention to render obvious Applicant's claims. Assuming, *arguendo*, the Examiner has accurately characterized the Fujita patent, nowhere does Fujita mention or suggestion that the operator can group input signals based on, "common properties", and/or assign an input signal to an input symbol based on common color and/or graphical properties. In fact, Applicant respectfully maintains that the path information generating means and corresponding character image generating means of Fujita do not operate based on the "common properties" of input signals, and no teaching or suggestion exists anywhere in Fujita that the matrix switch 106 enables such grouping by providing an analysis of the inputs signals and grouping them according to identified "common properties."

Given that Fujita fails to teach or suggest representing input signals and input symbols and grouping the input signals with common properties for assignment to input symbols having common color and/or graphical properties, Applicant's claim 1

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patentably distinguishes over this patent. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1 and incorporate by reference all of the features of their patent claims. Thus, claims 2-15 patentably distinguish over the art of record for the same reasons as claim 1. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant solicits entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims. If the Examiner cannot take such action, the Examiner should contact the Applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6820 to arrange a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview.

No fees are believed due with regard to this response. However, if there is a fee, please charge the fee and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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